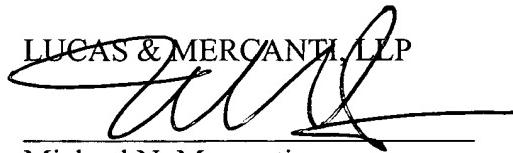


**REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment is being submitted to insert a claim of priority based on a foreign application into the specification. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been entered and that the present application is in all respects complete and in condition for favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP  


Michael N. Mercanti  
Registration No. 33,966

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP  
475 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10016  
Phone: 212-661-8000  
Fax: 212-661-8002

"Express Mail" mailing label no. <u>EV 848 108 710 US</u>
Date of Deposit <u>July 26, 2006</u>
I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above, in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450".
LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP
By:  Carla Santos